

## § 20.506

## 25 CFR Ch. I (4–1–08 Edition)

placement outside the home is necessary. The case plan must contain a written agreement signed among the various funding sources to identify the services that will be paid by each source in those instances where the child requires services outside the authority of the Child Assistance program.

### FOSTER CARE

#### **§ 20.506 What information is required in the foster care case file?**

At a minimum the following information is required:

- (a) Tribal enrollment verification in accordance with § 20.100;
- (b) A written case plan (established within 30 days of placement), which would include a permanency plan detailing the need for and expected length of placement;
- (c) Information on each child's health status and school records, including medications and immunization records;
- (d) Parental consent(s) for emergency medical care, school, and transportation;
- (e) A signed plan for payment, including financial responsibility of parents and use of other appropriate resources;
- (f) A copy of the certification/license of the foster home;
- (g) A current photo of each child;
- (h) A copy of the social security card, birth certificate, Medicaid card and current court order;
- (i) For a placement beyond 30 days, copy of the action taken or authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction that documents the need for protection of the child;
- (j) For an involuntary placement, a social services assessment completed by a social services worker within 30 days of placement;
- (k) Documentation of a minimum of one visit to the placement setting per month by the social services worker with each child; and
- (l) A list of all prior placements, including the names of the foster parents and dates of placements.

#### **§ 20.507 What requirements must foster care providers meet?**

If a child needs foster care, the social services worker must select care that meets the physical, behavioral, and

emotional needs of the child. Foster care is intended to be short-term. The case plan must show that all of the requirements in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section are met:

(a) All foster homes must be certified or licensed by the tribe or other appropriate authority. Foster care placements beyond 30 days must be made through a court of competent jurisdiction to ensure that:

- (1) Federal background checks are completed prior to placement as required by Public Law 101-630; and
- (2) Training (optional for placements with relatives) is provided to the foster family.

(b) If the child is placed with relatives in an adoption and guardian placement, the case file must contain an approved current home study.

(c) An off-reservation foster home, or residential care facility under contract must meet the licensing standards of the state in which it is located or tribally established certifying/licensing standards.

#### **§ 20.508 What must the social services agency do when a child is placed in foster care, residential care or guardianship home?**

The social services agency must make efforts to secure child support for the child in foster care or residential care through a court of competent jurisdiction.

#### **§ 20.509 What must the social services worker do when a child is placed in foster care or residential care facility?**

When a child is placed in foster care or a residential care facility the social services worker must do all of the following:

- (a) Discuss with foster parents or caretakers, the child's special needs, including disabilities;
- (b) Provide counseling or referral to available resources;
- (c) Refer any child requiring medical, substance abuse, or behavioral (mental) health services to an appropriate health services to be assessed and to receive services;

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(d) Ensure that the case plan provides for all necessary costs of care (including clothing, incidentals, and personal allowance) in accordance with established state standards of payments;

(e) Develop a foster family agreement signed and dated by the parties involved that specifies the roles and responsibilities of the biological parents, foster parents, and placing agency; the terms of payment of care; and the need for adherence to the established case plan;

(f) Immediately report any occurrences of suspected child abuse or neglect in a foster home or residential care facility to law enforcement and protective services in accordance with tribal standards and reporting requirements under Public Law 101-630; and

(g) Complete a yearly assessment of each tribal or state licensed foster home or residential care facility evaluating how the home has fulfilled its function relative to the needs of the child placed in the home.

### **§ 20.510 How is the court involved in child placements?**

The court retains custody of a child in placement and the care and supervision must be given to the appropriate social services agency. While the court can issue any court order consistent with tribal law, the courts do not have the authority to require expenditure of federal funds to pay for specifically prescribed or restrictive services or out-of-home placements of children. Case plans must be reviewed with the appropriate court at least every 6 months and a permanency hearing held within 12 months after a child enters foster care or residential care, or according to established tribal standards. These standards can be established in the tribal code and can be in accordance with available funding source requirements.

### **§ 20.511 Should permanency plans be developed?**

Permanency planning must be developed for all child placements within 6 months after initial placement of the child. Every reasonable effort will be made to preserve the family and/or reunify the children with the family and relatives when developing permanency

plans. However, the child's health and safety are the paramount concern.

### **§ 20.512 Can the Bureau/tribal contractors make Indian adoptive placements?**

The Bureau is not an authorized adoption agency and staff must not arrange adoptive placements. However, long-term permanency planning can involve the Bureau social services workers cooperating with tribal courts to provide an adoption subsidy. Tribal contractors will provide adoption services as authorized by the tribal courts in accordance with tribal codes/law.

### **§ 20.513 Should Interstate Compacts be used for the placement of children?**

Interstate compact agreements should be used when appropriate for foster care, adoption and guardianship to protect the best interests of the child and to assure the availability of the funding resources and services from the originating placement source.

### **§ 20.514 What assistance can the courts request from social services on behalf of children?**

The courts can request the following:

- (a) Investigations of law enforcement reports of child abuse and neglect;
- (b) Assessment of the need for out-of-home placement of the child; and
- (c) Provision of court-related services following adjudication, such as monitoring, foster care, or residential care, or pre/post placement services.

### **§ 20.515 What is required for case management?**

Social services workers must document regular contact with children and families in accordance with specific program requirements. The social services agency is responsible for implementation of quality case management; this requires the supervisor's review of case plans every 90 days.

### **§ 20.516 How are child abuse, neglect or exploitation cases to be handled?**

Reported child abuse, neglect or exploitation cases and the requirement for background clearances will be handled in accordance with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act of 1990, Public Law 101-